GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1438
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
IMPORT OF PALM OIL
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from which palm oil has been imported during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 till date along with the quantity imported from each country indicating the rates separately;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance custom duty on its import and limit its import keeping in view the interest of the farmers and oil industry of the country;

(c) if so, the date from which such a decision is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the names of the consumer goods included in Open General Licence (OGL)?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) Palm oil has been imported mainly from Malaysia and Indonesia by the private trade. Precise figure for quantity and rates of Palm Oil imported are not available.

As per available information, import of crude palm oil constitutes about 18% and 38% of the total edible oils imported during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. The average rate (in USD), CIF Indian Port of imported crude palm oil has been 350 and 229 during December, 1999 and December, 2000 respectively.

(b) & (c) : Government has rationalised the duty structure of edible oils w.e.f. 21st November, 2000 so as to harmonise the interests of the consumers, farmers and processors and at the same time regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible. Government is keeping a watch on the price and availability situation of edible oils in the country.

(d) Import of edible vegetable oils except coconut oil has been placed under OGL.